

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cleaning method for cleaning a developer container includes a step of blowing air through an opening formed in the developer container at a first  
5 flow rate; a step of sucking air through the opening at a second flow rate which is larger than the first flow rate; wherein while the blowing and suction steps are being simultaneously carried out, ambient air is permitted to enter the developer container through an  
10 ambient air inlet.

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